

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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INCARCERATED DEFENDANT MAKES THREATS

Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States, announced today that on December 20, 2005, a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Indianapolis returned a two count indictment charging **CHARLES E. FULLER**, age 39, currently incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institution at Pekin, Illinois, with extortion (Count 1) and threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction against a person in the United States (Count 2). The indictment alleges the offenses occurred on or about June 21, 2004.

In relation to Count 1, the indictment alleges that FULLER mailed a threatening letter from a Federal Corrections Institution to an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Indiana who had prosecuted FULLER in the case upon which he is currently incarcerated. The indictment further alleges that FULLER demanded \$250,000 and a letter from the Assistant United States Attorney falsely stating that the prosecutor had lied and falsified evidence in order to obtain FULLER's conviction. If the prosecutor did not comply, the indictment alleges that FULLER threatened to injure members of her family.

In relation to Count 2, the indictment alleges that the envelope mailed to the Assistant United States Attorney contained a white powdery substance which FULLER claimed in the letter to be anthrax. Tests later revealed that the substance was not anthrax.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

If convicted, FULLER faces up to 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of 3 years of supervised release to follow incarceration on Count 1 and a term of up to life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of 5 years of supervised release on Count 2. No first appearance date for Fuller has been set.

Investigation into the case was conducted by agents of the Federal Protective Service, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Because an attorney in its office was the target of the threats contained in the letter, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Indiana recused itself from the investigation and prosecution of the case. The Attorney General appointed Michael C. Carr and James M. Cutchin as special prosecutors. Carr and Cutchin serve as Assistant United States Attorneys in the Southern District of Illinois.

All inquiries should be directed to the press officer, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois.